

# Urban Dirt

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

## Finding Your Microclimates

Article by Terri Simon, Master Gardner

**Microclimate** - the climate of a very small or restricted area, especially when this differs from the climate of the surrounding area.

- en.oxforddictionaries.com

It doesn't matter what your plant hardiness zone is, at home you garden in microclimates. Now that the cold weather is here, you may have already sheltered some or all of your precious plants. According to <https://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/> when I entered my zip code, on average my first and last frost/freeze dates were between December 20th through February 8th. I still have some time to protect or move some of my beloved plants. The bulk of my plants are in pots so relocating the smaller ones shouldn't be too hard. I have to admit, only about five will be moved. Out here at Casa Simon, it's survival of the fittest. I have

discovered a few of my microclimate areas so some plants are already in those areas.

So why is it important to find the microclimates at your house? For protection from inclement weather, for the best growing conditions and for survival, that's why. So your plants will live and thrive the way they should. Let's discuss some of the environmental conditions, the physical structures and finally some of the land conditions at your property you can take note of to improve your gardening skills.

**Wind** - the wind is a critical factor in your garden. Even normal, steady breezes can affect your plants. Wind can interrupt the air layer on leaf surfaces. The wind dries out leaves and plants require more water. Heavier winds can topple plants in pots, shred plants or even blow them down causing damage to stalks. Wind turbulence can increase due to solid walls, buildings or fences. When the wind encounters a line of homes with passages between them, it funnels through and exits with increased speed. If it meets a wall it will pass over the top or around the corners- this will also increase the wind speed. Consider placing hedges, trellises, or permeable fences in windy areas which will provide some protection. Consider the elevation of your home/property. Higher areas will be windier and plants will dry out more quickly, while low areas at the bottom of the hill will collect cooler air but may also collect more

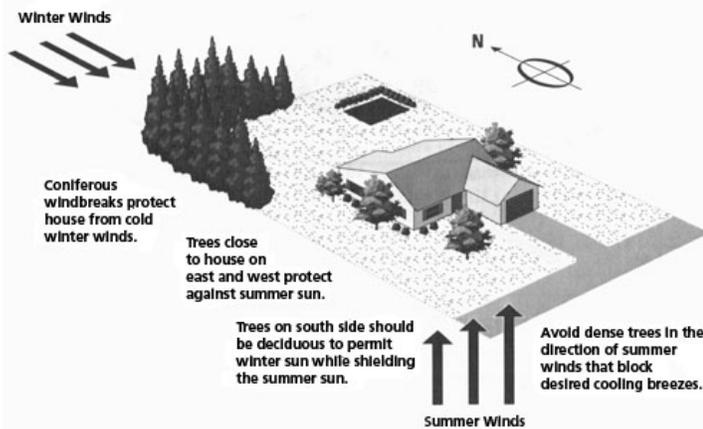


Illustration courtesy New-learn.info

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## Upcoming Events

*Due to extensive flooding at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Bear Creek Park, we will be relocating in the future, but have no information on that location yet.*

*The January 2018 Fruit Tree Sale WILL be held in AgriLife Extension parking lot (or the adjacent Houston Farm and Ranch parking lot); however, no Plant Sale Preview will be provided for this sale.*

*Our satellite location in Pasadena, located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road 77034, is operating as normal. Visit the Demonstration Gardens at this location on Open Garden Days.*

## January 2018

### Educational Program

**Jan. 11**, 10:00-11:30 a.m., *Selection & Production of Peach and Plum trees for our area.* Speaker: Herman Auer, Galveston County Master Gardener, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, 77034

## 2018 Plant Sales

### *Bear Creek Extension*

#### **Fruit Tree Sale**

**Jan. 27**, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Citrus, apple, peach, pear, avocado, berry, pecan suitable for our area. Bear Creek Extension parking lot, 3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, TX 77084

#### **Tomato/Pepper, Herb and Vegetable Sale**

**Feb. 17**, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tomatoes, peppers, vegetables, and herbs suited to our summer growing season. Location: TBA

### *Genoa Friendship Gardens*

#### **Fruit Tree and Tomato Sale and Workshops**

**Feb. 24**, 8:00 a.m., Plant Sale Preview / 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sale. Citrus, apple, peach, pear, avocado, berry and pecan suitable for our area. Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena, TX 77507

#### **Spring Sale - Perennials, Herbs & Peppers**

**Mar. 24**, 8:00 a.m., Plant Sale Preview / 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sale. Perennials, peppers, vegetables, and herbs suited to our summer growing season. Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena, TX 77507

## Have Garden Questions?

Email your questions and photos to: phone [hcmga@gmail.com](mailto:hcmga@gmail.com) or  
Call us Monday – Friday 9:00 am to Noon at 713-274-0950

# Plant of the Month - Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Beth Braun, Master Gardener

I have only a nodding acquaintance with botanical names of plants. As a Master Gardener I should have more mastery of botanical names, but my interests run to Form, Fragrance, and Function. Is it a food source for me, birds, butterflies, caterpillars, bees, and moths? Does it suit a wet or dry spot, a full sun or shady area, a slope, high traffic or windy space like a high rise balcony? Does it provide shade or privacy where it's needed? Is it fussy or easy? Does it tolerate Harris County's heat and unpredictable freezes?

Botanical names can be interesting and useful, as when a common name is used for multiple unrelated plants. But I forget as many botanical names as I attempt to remember.

There's one exception: *Ilex vomitoria*. This name has stuck with me. It's fun to say, it sounds like what it means, and I have a sense of expertise for knowing it.

If you enjoy digging into botanical names, a free and fun online resource is Dave's Garden, <https://davesgarden.com/>. Its enormous PlantFiles database is created with the help of gardeners from around the globe. The plant descriptions provide botanical names, and a click on any part of it (Family, Genus, Species) will tell you what that word means. In the case of Yaupon Holly, here's what you'll see:

- Family: Aquifoliaceae (a-kwee-fol-lee-AY-see-ee) (Info)
- Genus: Ilex (EYE-leks) (Info)
- Species: vomitoria (vom-ih-TOR-ee-uh) (Info)
- Synonym: Ilex ligustrina

By clicking on the Info links, we learn that Aquifoliaceae is the Holly family, Ilex is the Latin name for the holly genus, and vomitoria means "causing vomiting". According to the Wildflower Center in Austin, Native Americans used the caffeine-containing leaves and twigs to prepare a ceremonial tea. Large quantities were drunk and then vomited back up, leading to its species name, *vomitoria*. While another source warns that all parts of the tree are poisonous if ingested, the Wildflower Center explains that the vomiting was self-induced or brought on by other added ingredients. Note that the fruit is poisonous to humans.

What can be more iconic during the holidays than the green and red of hollies? Everything from holiday cards to wreaths to tree ornaments, table cloths & napkins, place settings to puzzles to home accessories are adorned with holly themes, and it even extends to music. The Holly and the Ivy begins with the words,



Photo by Lee Page, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown  
Of all the trees that are in the wood  
The holly bears the crown.

The verses that follow give religious symbolism to the white flowers, red fruit, and prickly leaves.

In their book *Native Texas Plants*, Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski describe the Yaupon holly as one of the most used native plants all across Texas. As a small tree, it's suitable for most landscapes and it grows in almost any condition: full sun to shade, drought to poor drainage, sand, loam, clay, and limestone soil. To add to its versatility, the Yaupon holly grows in USDA Zones 7a to 10b and is native from southern Virginia south to Florida, and west to southeast Oklahoma and central Texas.

This slow grower usually tops out at 12 – 15 feet. Its natural tendency is to grow shrubby from the base, so it lends itself to a dense hedge. Careful pruning and thinning of interior branches will show off its beautiful pale gray bark and branching trunks to best advantage.



Photo by Alan Cressler, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

*cont'd on pg. 5*

# Herb of the Month - Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

The sweet, aromatic fragrance of bay leaf is one most evocative of the holidays; however, dried bay leaf is prized by cooks, stored and used throughout the cool weather season as a seasoning primarily for soups and stews, but for other dishes, as well.

This month's spotlight is on the use of bay laurel as a decorative wreath for the season. Laurel wreaths were first used decoratively as a symbol of victory and honor by the ancient Greeks. In Greek mythology, Apollo's depiction includes adornment with a laurel wreath on his head. Romans bestowed laurel wreaths upon military champions. Both societies established a horseshoe-shaped wreath as a symbol of victory and honor, and the wreath's use over time evolved into an unbroken circle. Laurel wreaths are notably present in modern heraldry, in academia as well as in architecture and textiles.

The bay laurel wreath as a designation of honor is so firmly entrenched within modern culture, that the expression "resting on one's laurels" stems from its ancient origins, indicating that a person is relying entirely upon past successes for continued recognition.

Although the disease "laurel wilt" – transferred by a beetle, there is no cure -- can be a challenge, bay laurel growth can be met with considerable success in south Texas. According to the website "Foraging Texas," Texas has multiple types of bay trees. "Around Houston the most common are sweet bay (*Laurus nobilis*), redbay (*Persea borbonia*) and laurel cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*). All three grow in the same environment, preferably as understory trees in moist, shaded areas. Very slow growing, most you'll find will be small trees around 20' tall. However, mature trees can rival oaks in size and appearance. Crushed sweet bay and redbay leaves have a wonderful bay aroma while laurel cherry smells like bitter almonds or artificial cherry scent. That bitter almond smell is poisonous cyanide, so the leaves of the laurel cherry should not be used as a seasoning or consumed in any other manner."

A note: If foraging bay leaf for cooking (utilizing the dried leaves of the wreath), be careful to note that sweet bay and redbay leaf edges will be smooth while the dangerous laurel cherry leaves will have teeth, ranging in number from two very small ones near the base to many all along the leaf edge.



Bay Laurel Photo courtesy [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

Native to the Mediterranean, bay laurel can be successfully managed locally within a container at about five feet, while in its native habitat, the laurel can grow to over forty feet tall. Should you decide to plant one in your garden for future use, since Mediterranean winters are not usually as cold as ours can sometimes be, you may need to protect bay laurel on an extra cold night, especially during the first few years. Beyond this, well-established trees should experience very little freeze damage, even with temperatures down into the teens, if those temps are not prolonged.

Bay laurel prefers very rich, well-drained soil, so be sure to amend the planting area (not just the hole) with lots of compost. It requires full sun to thrive, but will struggle in areas with reflected heat and very dry air. You will need

to water bay laurel regularly, but not more than once a week, once established, except in very hot, prolonged dry spells. As bay laurel is a culinary plant, you'll want to harvest some of the leaves, which you can do at any time of the year. Bay laurel is quite shrubby and responds well to pruning, especially if it's healthy, and will put on new growth every time you harvest.

Fragrant bay leaves make a stunning addition to any holiday home; uses including interior, exterior, or both! The beautiful wreath, following the holidays once the leaves have dried, can be plucked from the wreath and stored for cooking! How beautiful is that? Here is a link to making a simply stunning bay laurel wreath. Have a wonderful holiday season and New Year!

<https://www.marthastewart.com/952038/how-make-bay-laurel-wreath-holidays>

#### Citations:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurel\\_wreath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurel_wreath)  
[http://www.foragingtexas.com/2008/08/bay-laurel\\_20.html](http://www.foragingtexas.com/2008/08/bay-laurel_20.html)  
<https://www.klru.org/ctg/resource/bay-laurel/>

## Finding Your Microclimates, *cont'd from pg. 1*

water after it rains. Those lower areas will also frost first when the first freeze and the last freeze come and they will thaw last.

*Warm or sunny sections* - Sections near concrete, gravel, brick walls will absorb heat and reflect it. Garden areas on the south side of the house will generally receive more sun unless a physical structure shields it. Plant accordingly. Garden plants on the south side with full sun exposure for eight hours here in Texas must be tough. Their water requirements may be higher as well.

*Low lying areas and frost pockets* - Cold air sinks to the lowest point. Water will also pool at the lowest point. With the approach of winter, note the areas which collect frost first and thaw last. Consider carefully which moisture loving plants you can plant in those areas. You may also need to amend or raise the soil for better drainage.

Once you have identified the microclimates, map them. Mark the cardinal directions on it (north, south, east, and west). Note any low areas, slopes, hot spots and windy areas. Once you have an idea of the many microclimates of your garden, you can plant accordingly. Remember, don't be shy about relocating plants! If it is not doing well in one spot, move it. Every plant deserves the



*The end of this porch faces the north. It provides sun shade during the summer, but in the winter plants need protection from the north winds. The barn in the back provides shade under the canopy during the summer months. For winter wind protection tender potted plants are placed either in the barn or on the south side. Low areas have been filled in to prevent pooling after heavy rains. The front porch faces east and plants requiring less direct southern sun are planted there.*

*Photo by Terri Simon*

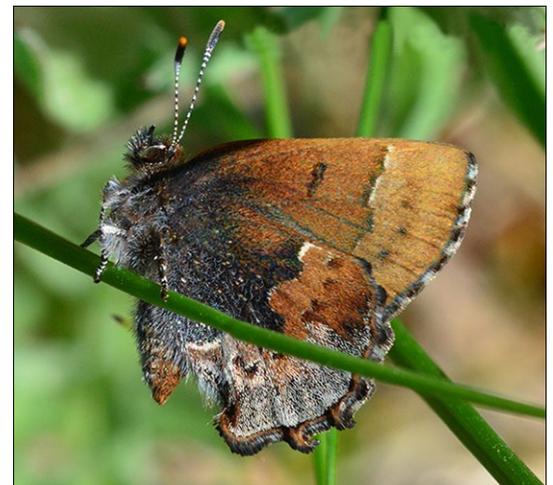
chance to grow to its maximum potential. As master gardeners, we should aim for reaching our full gardening potential as well.

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## Plant of the Month, *cont'd from pg. 3*

Inconspicuous but fragrant white flowers appear on male and female plants in spring, and are attractive to bees. Pollinated flowers on female plants eventually produce 1/4" berry-like red, and sometimes yellow, fruits. Unlike the Possumhaw holly (*Ilex decidua*) whose berries adorn bare trees in the winter, the Yaupon holly is an evergreen. The Wasowskis report that the fruit is eaten by at least seven species of birds, but only late in the winter when the fruit has fermented and other food choices are gone. The Yaupon holly's dense growth provides good nesting sites for some birds, and it is a larval host of the Henry's Elfin butterfly.

As it turns out, the *Ilex vomitoria* checks off a lot of desirable traits and conditions raised in the Function questions at the beginning of this column. Let's keep exploring the endless and fascinating world of plants.



*Henry's Elfin butterfly*

*Photo by David L. Kinney, Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) project website.*

# “Centennial” Serenity and Spirituality Abound in the Garden

By Becky Lowicki, Master Gardener

*On a recent tour of the McGovern Centennial Gardens with Jane Curtis, director of Horticulture, Hermann Park Conservancy, the Harris County Master Gardeners learned about the mission of the Hermann Park Conservancy, as well as the history, planning and challenges in developing the gardens.*

Like a siren song calling from Greek mythology, breathtaking sounds of the melodious four-tiered waterfall spanning the length of a football field beckons us to enter the McGovern Centennial Gardens through the shimmering silver-arched entryway of Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion on a recent sunny fall morning.

Filled with anticipation of what we’d soon behold, our group of Harris County Master Gardeners was soon entranced by the Garden’s magical spell.

“We like to stand at the entrance and hear the comments as visitors first enter the gardens,” said Jane Curtis, director of Horticulture, Hermann Park Conservancy, and the leader of our guided tour. “It’s quite a remarkable site and totally unexpected when you walk in from the parking lot. Visitors are amazed by the grandeur



The shimmering Pavilion patio and cascading fountains are a stunning entryway to the McGovern Centennial Gardens.



Aerial view of the McGovern Centennial Gardens spans eight acres within Hermann Park.

of the main entry sequence, with a long formal lawn flanked by the pergolas, walks and rich horticultural borders, and with the Mount beckoning you to climb in the distance.”

Indeed—amidst the towering city skyscrapers in the fourth largest city in the nation lies a peaceful oasis like no other. Literally entrenched in acreage half the size of Central Park in New York, the McGovern Centennial Garden is the newest gem among a diamond cluster of meticulously developed gardens that opened 3 years ago to commemorate Hermann Park’s

centennial in 2014 on the 15-acre site of the former Houston Garden Center.

“As you experience the gardens and have a chance to climb the Mount, each moment as you rise presents new views of the gardens and of the rest of the park,” said Curtis. “That single experience is very novel in our flat landscape. Also, the sound of the fountains, both at the entry plaza and the cascade at the Mount, is very soothing and provides a sense of enclosure to the experience as it shuts out the noise of the street. This element was a surprise to all of us involved in the planning—the delightful noise of water—children just shriek with delight when they get to the base of the cascade.”

Key to the overall planning is that the McGovern Centennial Gardens were designed to be pleasurable, nothing more. “We don’t intend for the Gardens to be a representation of a botanical garden or an education garden,” explained Curtis, “which is consistent with the mission of the Hermann Park Conservancy to ‘preserve and protect Hermann Park today, and for generations to come.’ ”

*cont’d on pg. 7*

## “Centennial” Garden, *cont'd from pg. 6*



A pleasant surprise along the pine hill walk is the Friendship Pavilion, which was a gift to the City in 1976 from its sister city of Taipei.

A labor of love, painstaking care and maintenance since its launch, Curtis provided keen insight into the historical evolution of the Gardens from inception to date, as well as much of the gardening challenges and success stories her team has faced that all gardeners share, albeit on a grander scale than most.

“First and foremost, it’s just a really nice place to be with a variety of gardens, colors, textures, scents, sounds, vistas, butterflies, birds and more—a place where everyone is welcome to sit, to relax, to enjoy the company of friends and even strangers, here in the very heart of our diverse city,” said Curtis.

Managed by the Hermann Park Conservancy, the eight-acre green space is filled with more than 50 species of trees, as well as a diverse array of native plants, annual, perennials, grasses and more, which are artfully designed in the ecoscapes of the Arid, Rose, Celebration, and Woodland gardens, as well as an educational Family Garden, which produces seasonal vegetables, herbs and fruit. Horticulturist Dany Millikin shared several organic tips from compost tea for roses to other non-chemical applications as part of ongoing care of the diverse greenscape.

The Gardens were planned with the hope that visitors will leave with the inspiration to garden with a wider range of plants and consider broader planting gestures, contrasting interesting textures and a full range of greens, according to Curtis. “We also hope to inspire home gardeners to grow and eat the wonderful range of edibles available in our region – fruits, herbs, berries, citrus, vegetables and root crops, even sugar cane,” she said.

Aptly set in the Texas Medical Center, what better therapy for patients, families and friends in all stages of medical care to meander along the garden paths as gentle breezes rustle through the

massive limbs of century-old oaks, transporting visitors of all ages and abilities to a welcome respite from cares of the moment.

“As the trees mature over time, the character of some gardens will change as the ground plane will evolve,” said Curtis. “For example, the end of the Woodland garden with all new trees will be shadier, and the grass will need to be changed to ferns. We look forward to the pergola being fully covered with the evergreen wisteria vines so that there will be more shady spots to park and enjoy the view.”

With a mission toward community education and outreach, the general public has an open invitation to attend monthly gardening workshops and horticultural lectures, as well as a weekly children’s story time, which encourages learning about nature at an early age.

The adjacent Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion hosts formal weddings to regular garden club events in the main building overlooking the expansive greenspace. “We hope to increase both the number of venue rentals and the number of volunteers, which will allow us to do more gardening!” she said.

A serene greenspace that is both grounding and uplifting all at once, being in this garden leaves you feeling much differently than when you first walked in. And that’s the green beauty of it all.

Curtis concurs, “We think our highest role is to bring people together in the public realm and provide this wonderful garden, as well as a renovated and ever-improving park, in which to gather and enjoy life.”

For more information, please visit [Hermann Park McGovern Centennial Gardens](#).

*Green gardening thanks to our gracious hosts, Jane Curtis, Director of Horticulture, and Dany Millikin, horticulturist, Hermann Park Conservancy, and to Becky Larkin, Harris County Master Gardener, and Brandi Keller, Harris County Master Gardener volunteer coordinator, whose combined efforts led to this wonderful opportunity to tour the Gardens.*



Monarchs on milkweed: pollinators abound from the formal rose garden to the rotating vegetable beds of the family gardens.

# Gardening Tools

This chart is a handy guide for knowing the best times to plant in Harris County.

|                                  |  <b>Vegetable Garden Planting Dates</b><br>for Harris County |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     | <b>Fact Sheet</b><br>Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service<br>3033 Bear Creek Dr, Houston, TX 77084<br>713-274-0950<br><a href="http://harris-tx.tamu.edu">http://harris-tx.tamu.edu</a> |                     |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|---|---------------------|
|                                  | Jan   | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Marginal Planting Time  | Ideal Planting Time |
| Asparagus Crowns                 |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Beans - Bush                     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Beans - Pole & Lima (Butterbean) |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Beets                            |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Broccoli Plants                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Brussels Sprouts                 |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Cabbage                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Cabbage - Chinese                |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Carrots                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Cauliflower Plants               |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Chard, Swiss                     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Collards                         |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Corn                             |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Cucumbers                        |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Eggplant Plants                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Garlic                           |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Kale                             |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Kohlrabi Plants                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Leeks - Transplants              |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Lettuce                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Melon - Cantaloupe, Honeydew     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Mustard                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Okra                             |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Onion - Bulb-type sets           |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Onion - Transplant for Scallions |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Onion - Multipliers              |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Parsley                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Peas - English & Snap            |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Peas - Southern                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Pepper Plants - Sweet            |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Pepper Plants - Hot              |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Potato - Irish                   |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Potato - Sweet                   |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Pumpkin                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Radish                           |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Spinach                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Squash - Summer                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Squash - Winter                  |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Tomato                           |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Turnips                          |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Watermelon                       |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |   |                     |

# Open Garden Days at Genoa Friendship Gardens



The Orchard



The Water Garden



The Greenhouse

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Harris County Master Gardeners invite you to join us

## *Open Garden Days*

on the 3rd Monday of every month, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., January through December, and the 1st Monday of every month, June through August.

Admission to the Exhibit Gardens is free, and register at the Welcome Table to receive additional monthly notices for children and family events.

## **The Genoa Friendship Gardens**

is located at

1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road

Houston, Texas 77034

**Email:** phoneHCMGA@gmail.com **Phone:** 713.274.0950

*To schedule a special event for your garden club, school or professional organization please contact us to make your arrangements.*

- Tour the variety of exhibits to inspire you with vegetable, perennial, rose, tropical and native gardens.
- Meet and talk with a Master Gardener about planting citrus, fruit or berries for your home orchard.
- Contemplate the joy in the Serenity Garden and catch a view of the Water Garden.
- Don't leave the GFG until you have shopped the Greenhouse where seasonal herbs, vegetables and perennials are available for bargain prices until September.

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### *2018 Monthly Open Garden Days & Special Events*

|                    |  |               |                 |
|--------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| January 15         | Open Garden Day                          | June 4 & 18   | Open Garden Day |
| <b>February 24</b> | <b>Fruit Tree &amp; Tomato Sale</b>      | July 2 & 16   | Open Garden Day |
| February 19        | Open Garden Day                          | August 6 & 20 | Open Garden Day |
| <b>March 24</b>    | <b>Perennial, Herb &amp; Pepper Sale</b> | September 17  | Open Garden Day |
| March 19           | Open Garden Day                          | October 15    | Open Garden Day |
| April 16           | Open Garden Day                          | November 19   | Open Garden Day |
| May 21             | Open Garden Day                          |               |                 |

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

3033 BEAR CREEK DR.

HOUSTON, TX 77084

713-274-0950

[harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/](http://harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/)

[hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

## Like Us On Facebook

The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M Agrilife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook offering tips, lists, news and plant advice almost daily. The best part, instead of locating planting guides or insect documents, and sale dates for individuals, you can add the HCMG site



your account and easily share information with others. This is a definite timesaving device for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.

[www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners)

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